



**Minutes of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District
held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 February 2024
in the Council Chamber**

Members Present: Councillor P Curran (Mayor), Councillors, A Connelly, N Connolly, S Doyle, N Heavey, P O'Dwyer, T O'Dwyer

Remote Attendance: Councillors K Duffy, C Pender, and R Power

Apologies: Councillor F McLoughlin Healy

Officials Present: Ms E Hanlon (District Manager), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Engineer), Ms B Cuddy (District Engineer), Ms S Farrar (Administrative Officer), Mr S Wallace (A/Senior Parks and Landscaping Officer), Mr J Hennessy (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Administrator), Ms KA O'Brien (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Mayor introduced and welcomed the new District Manager Ms Eileen Hanlon to the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District meeting. Ms E Hanlon informed the members that she was Head of Finance and looked forward to working with the members.

KN01/0224

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

There were no declarations of interest.



**KN02/0224
Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 17 January 2024, the special meeting of Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District held on 31 January 2024 the progress report was noted

Resolved: on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all other members present that the monthly Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting held on 17 January 2024 be approved and the progress report be noted.

**KN03/0224
Municipal District Road Works**

The District Engineer gave the following update on roadworks in the Municipal District.

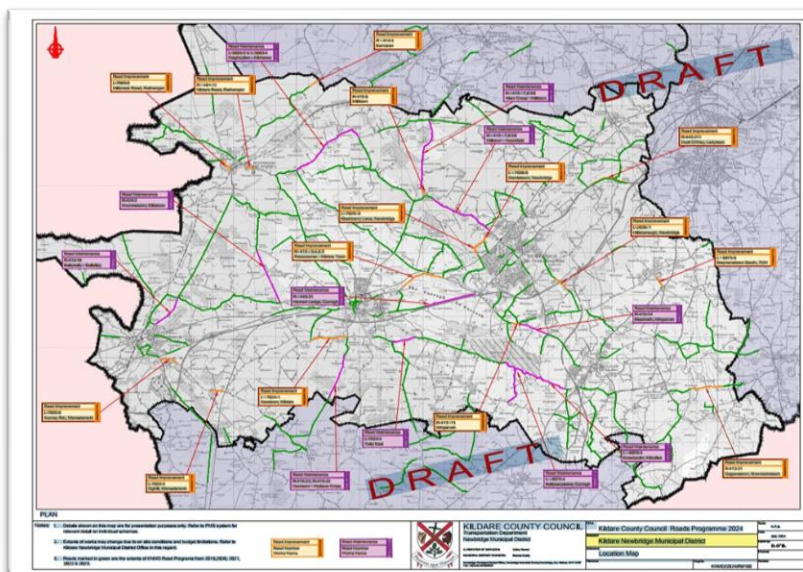
National Transport Authority (NTA):

Works on Green Road are continuing, widening of footpaths, provision of pedestrian crossing and road overlay. Footpath Upgrades: Footpath works are completed at Saint Patrick's Terrace.

The contractor is currently onsite upgrading footpaths at Campion Crescent and Carna, Suncroft.

Road Resurfacing Works:

See attached map for list and locations of proposed Road Improvement and Road Maintenance works for 2024. These locations were chosen on a technical merit while trying to ensure a spread across the Municipal District.





Kildare County Council

Road Improvement Works

L-7003	Millbrook Road, Rathangan
R-401	Kildare Road, Rathangan
R-414	Barnaran
R-415	Milltown
R-413	Racecourse – Kildare Town
L-7024	Newtown, Kildare
L-7055	Oghill, Monasterevin
L-7025	Blackberry Lane, Newbridge
R-413	Athgarvan
L-7036	Morristown, Newbridge
L-2028	Hillsborough, Newbridge
R-445	Dual Carriageway, Ladytown
L-6073	Stephenstown South, Two Mile House
R-413	Gaganstown, Brannockstown
L-7055	Nurney Road, Monasterevin

Road Maintenance Works

L-3003 / L3004	Feighcullen / Kilmoney
R-424	Knavinstown, Ellistown
R-414	Ballykelly / Ballalley
R-415	Mullane Cross
L-7024	Tully East
R-445	Herbert Lodge, Curragh
R-415	Miltown
R-415	Hawkfield
R-413	Blackrath
L-6075	Knockaulin, Kilcullen
L-6075-4	Ballysax Plains, Curragh



Kildare County Council

Monasterevin

- Drainage - Kill Hill, The Commons, Ummeras
- Patching - Quinnsboro, Colmanstown, Mulane Cross, The Commons, Kildare, Rathmuck, Duneany, Ballalley, Main Street Monasterevin, Ummeras, Railway Bridge, Kildare Town.
- Cleanup after Storm Isha.
- In addition to the works above, daily street cleaning is undertaken in Kildare Town, Monasterevin and Kildangan.

Rathangan

- Drainage works on L81371, Doorley Park, R414 by GAA field, Hawkfield to Milltown Town, Milltown to Whelan Cross, Rathangan Town.
- Milltown -pipe investigation and digging works.
- Patching and pothole filling- Boston Hill, Barretstown and Kiltaghan, Ellistown Road, Blacktrench Road, Edenderry Road, Shindala Road, L7023 to Pollardstown.
- Green junction bollards at L3001 Rathangan.
- Footpath works Rathangan Footpath (Tidy Towns).
- Hedge cutting – Rathangan Temple Hill, Whelan Cross to Milltown, Barretstown.
- Footpath cleaning –Temple Hill, Rathangan.
- Chevrons signs fitted- at Roadstone bend and Tully Lost Cross and L7023 to Pollardstown.
- Hedge cutting- Barretstown, Blacktrench Road, Rathbride Road, Pollardstown, Clongorey and Glenarane

Newbridge and Surrounds

- McGuinness tanker was in for jetting and cleaning gullies in the following areas, Barrettstown Road, Great Southern estate, Piercetown, Ailsbury Park estate, Chapel Lane, Allenview Heights and George's Street.
- The gullies on public footpath at the back of Bord Na Móna and the cattlegrid in Atharvan and the gullies outside school.
- Watercuts Curragh/Brownstown
- Repaired the stop sign at Moorefield Park



Kildare County Council

- Replaced signs on the Station Road/ Morrinstown Road
- Put in two new gullies pots and a road crossing to an open drain in Maddenstown North.
- Moved all poles from kerb line back in tight to wall on Eyre Street.
- Put up new warning signs from Walshestown Cross towards the Curragh Plains to warn drivers of road narrowing. Cleaning of Sexes Bridge footpath and roadway.
- Poles were put up on new walkway and cycle lane from Dara Park towards the train station.
- Replaced two broken bollards in Dara Park.
- Footpath repair works outside KFC and also widened the footpath along Finlays garage.
- Patching works Brownstown, Donnelly's Hollow, Blackberry Lane, Morrinstown Road, Lumville Cross.

Kilcullen

- Watercuts - Corbally, Dunston, Old N9 and Green Avenue.
- Hedgecutting - Brannockstown to Ballymore, Silliot Hill, Chapel Lane, Two Mile House, Flemingstown, Corbally and Harbour Road.
- Pothole repairs - Ladytown, Ballysax, Green Avenue, Castlekealy, Carnalway and Newlands.
- Road signage repairs - Caragh Village, Two Mile House Village and Brannockstown Village.
- Clearing roads after recent storms.

The District Engineer informed the members that the report included the Road Improvement and Road Maintenance works for 2024 but was subject to budget and tender process. This was based off last year's figures and would go out for tender.

Councillor Power informed the members that he wanted to highlight the roadworks at Toughers Roundabout, saying that the traffic management plan was inadequate with no clear detour provided. There seemed to be a back log on the road to Red Lane which was a country road.

Councillor P O'Dwyer asked for clarification as to whether a letter was sent to the residents with the change of dates as the original letter issued had the 6 February to the 8 February for the road works. The District Engineer informed the members that as far as she was aware Red Lane was to be a one way system. There was no choice but to close the Dual Carriageway while the works



Kildare County Council

were happening, and works would be finished 21 February 2024. The work was due to be from the 6 - 8 February but due to the weather this was not possible.

The report was noted.

KN04/0224 Residual LPT

Councillor T O'Dwyer proposed:

- €1,000 to the Hermitage Park Residents Association, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare
Purpose: To replace five flower boxes with recycled plastic plants and replacement plants.
- €5,382.17 to Jonathan Walsh – Kildare County Council
Purpose: To purchase and install new driver feedback sign on the Curragh Approach Road into Athgarvan.

Councillor N Connolly proposed:

- €20,000 to reallocate money from the Community Car to the Area Engineer
Purpose: To assist in the improvements to the road which accesses the back pitch of Ellistown GAA.
- €500 to Dara Park Residents Association
Purpose: Landscaping works at Dara Park including purchase of equipment for same.

Councillor P O'Dwyer proposed:

- Total €490 to the St Patrick's Day Festival in Newbridge (reallocate €250 from LAJEE event from 2022 and €240 from 2023 allocation)
Purpose: St Patrick's Day Festival in Newbridge

Councillor Doyle proposed:

- €7,500 to the Roads Department
Purpose: for advisory signage on the Rathbride Road
- €2,500 to Kildare Town Community School
Purpose: Additional funding for a St Brigid's day event in the Curragh Racecourse



Kildare County Council

Councillor Heavey proposed:

- €4,000 to Moorefield GAA Club
Purpose: To repair a damaged roof
- €2,650 to the St Patricks Day Parade Newbridge

Councillor Heavey informed the members that he was on the St Patricks Day committee.

District Manager advised the members that she felt the type of payment for Moorefield GAA Club and Kildare Town Community School did not fall within the scope of LPT allocations as these should only relate to matters that were functions of the council. Councillor Doyle informed the members that the Kildare Town Community School had received funding from the Community Department for a Brigid 1500 event, and this LPT proposal was augmenting this. Councillor Power informed the members that Kildare County Council do support some GAA and soccer clubs through Kildare Sports Partnership. He said that Kildare County Council had a leadership role in supporting voluntary bodies and should be proactive in this. Councillor Pender informed the members that the Local Enhancement Programme 2024 would be open for applications shortly. It was agreed that this payment would be deferred pending seeking clarification.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillors T O'Dwyer, N Connolly, P O'Dwyer, Doyle and Heavey and seconded by Councillors A Connolly T O'Dwyer and Doyle and agreed by all members present that all the above allocations be approved with the exception of payment to Moorefield GAA Club would be deferred pending seeking clarification.

KN05/0224

LPT Schedule of Works 2024

The members agreed to defer this item to the March Municipal District meeting due to the new District Manager not having had sight of the documents prior to the meeting but with the exception of approval of certain elements being dealt with if approved by the members. Councillor Doyle informed the members that they were seeking approval of the following:

- €400,000 to Roads
- €30,000 to Public Lighting
- €150,000 to Taking in Charge



Kildare County Council

Councillor Duffy proposed the approval that an amount of €5,000 be allocated to the St Patrick's Day Parade Newbridge and €3,000 to the St Patrick's Day Parade Monasterevin at today's meeting due to it being time sensitive.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillors Doyle and Duffy and seconded by Councillors T O'Dwyer and Pender and agreed by all members present that all the above allocations be approved as part of the LPT Schedule of Works 2024 and the remaining to be approved at the March Municipal District meeting.

KN06/0224

126 Bus Services to Suncroft

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Doyle and Duffy
That the council write to the NTA to request that the 126 Bus Services to Suncroft be upgraded to a minimum service as outlined under the Connecting Ireland plan; three times a day, five days a week service in/out of Newbridge as a priority.

The motion was proposed by Councillors Doyle and Duffy and seconded by Councillor A Connolly

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that with the members agreement, Kildare County Council will write to the National Transport Authority in relation to this motion.

The members raised the following points:

- Acknowledged the good work of the Community Department and Local Link
- Since the motion the NTA had agreed to a new improved service to the Suncroft, Brownstown area.
- Proposed to amend the motion for the purposes of writing the letter due to change in updated services.
- Exceptional outcome to expand the bus service.
- Would the bus service serve the community of Newbridge?
- The route at the moment was not suitable for the Suncroft area.



Kildare County Council

- The bus service in question was looked at for the Suncroft area not for Newbridge. This would be a separate service.
- This service to get in and out of Newbridge was a priority.
- Would have liked to see a connection to Kildare Town as well but welcomed this improved service.

The Meetings Administrator informed the members of the following amendment to the motion and asked for the members to agree:

Motion

That this council write to the NTA acknowledging the new improved service to the Suncroft and Brownstown area (821) linking into Newbridge and seek confirmation on the implementation timeline on this new improved service.

Resolved on the proposals of Councillors Doyle and Duffy seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by all members that the Transport Department would write to the National Transport Authority in relation to the amended motion and that the report be noted.

KN07/0224

Pedestrian crossing Mount Carmel

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer

That the council explore the possibility of installing a safe pedestrian crossing in the general area at Mount Carmel, Newbridge on the Sex's Bridge side.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the request has been added to a list of similar type of requests for pedestrian crossing facilities in the County. The location shall be assessed to determine what type of pedestrian crossing facilities, if any, are warranted at this location. A funding source would have to be identified to deliver any such infrastructure following assessment.

Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members the area in question was an area near schools and estates and fed into one single roundabout. Newbridge College had done a study for a pedestrian crossing at the side of the college and the site was visited by the District Engineer, but this was not



Kildare County Council

feasible. She suggested that maybe a raised table could be installed in this area. Councillor Pender informed the members that he would have concerns if the pedestrian crossing was near Sex's Bridge as it could affect the flow of traffic in this area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer that the report be noted.

KN08/0224

Woodview and Yellowlough Estates

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly
That the council address the unsafe sightlines as you exit the Woodview and Yellowlough Estates in Rathangan.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor N Connolly

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that it appears that there is a private hedge that is impeding visibility at this location. The Municipal District Office agree to make contact with the landowner and request that they cut back this hedge to improve sightlines.

Councillor A Connolly informed the members that she would meet with the District Engineer.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor N Connolly that the report be noted.

KN09/0224

Public lighting in Kildare Town

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly
Go ndéanfadh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara athbhreithniú ar shoilsiú poiblí i mBaile Chill Dara d'fhonn dul i ngleic le heasnaimh i gceantair mar An Sean Bhóthar agus bealach Slí na Sláinte. That Kildare County Council undertake a review of public lighting in Kildare Town with a view to addressing deficits in areas such as Old Road and the Slí na Sláinte route.



Kildare County Council

The motions were proposed by Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that your request has been added to the KLIPS (Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule) register. This is a priority system, where requests for new lighting will be scored on various factors and placed within KLIPS according to that score. Requests will be reviewed once funds become available.

The members raised the following points:

- Residents had raised concerns over lighting in Kildare town particularly the Slí na Sláinte route.
- Could the members be sent a copy of the KLIPS report when updated.
- Mr S Merrins from Kildare Sports Partnership was part of this original initiative for the Slí na Sláinte
- There were no poles on the Slí na Sláinte route to provide lighting which could be expensive.
- This route leads to St Brigids Well.
- Could a cost be given for this route?

Mr D Hodgins informed the members that he would seek a list and circulate to the members. He also advised the members that Slí na Sláinte was not an initiative of Kildare County Council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer that the report be noted.

KN10/0224

R414 from Cappanargid to the bridge at Barnaran

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wyse

That the council assess the R414 from Cappanargid to the bridge at Barnaran to determine what work is required to level the uneven road surface here.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office is proposing to include portions of the above road in our



Kildare County Council

2024 Restoration Improvement Programme subject to the agreement of the Municipal District members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer that the report be noted.

KN11/0224 Hill of Allen

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wyse

That the council consider the installation of additional 'concealed entrance' signs on the R415 on the Hill of Allen, particularly where the entrances to residences are located.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office agree to assess this location with a view to upgrading signage. It should be noted that additional signage can also impede sight visibility and distract road users.

Councillor Pender asked for clarification on why Councillor Wyse had motions and questions in for Kildare Newbridge Municipal District meeting. The Meetings Administrator informed the members that under standing orders a councillor from another Municipal District was allowed submit motions and questions once it was related to the district and they had not already submitted 2 motions and 2 questions to another or their own municipal District. He informed the members that a councillor was are not allowed speak on their motions and questions but could nominated another member within the municipal district to move his motions.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and that the report be noted.



KN12/0224
Kilcullen Library

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer
That Kildare County Council install a direction signpost for Kilcullen Library.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Transportation Department and Library service will review and agree the most appropriate location for a directional signpost.

Councillor T O'Dwyer informed the members that Kilcullen Library was a hidden gem and an excellent library with a lot of services to offer. She said there was no signpost to show where it was located and for new people moving to the area or passing through this would help increase awareness of its location. She had previously asked for a signpost to be put up, but nothing had come of it. Councillor T O'Dwyer asked if there was a timeline for this.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer and that the report be noted.

KN13/0224
Liffey Linear Park

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender
That this Municipal District promotes sustainable urban mobility and permeability by prioritizing the creation of a safer route to school by investigating the feasibility of a direct footpath into Liffey Linear Park, Newbridge at the site of the former entrance into the park (53.1791431870932, -6.792829665940632) ensuring accessibility for all.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor N Connolly

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the creation of an entrance at this location would not be possible as some of the



Kildare County Council

land is not in our ownership and there would be considerable engineering involved given the height differences and narrowness of the towpath. Additionally, it would not be considered an accessible access given the height differences that have to be overcome.

Councillor Pender informed the members that he understood where the report was coming from but felt something could be implemented.

The members raised the following points:

- There was an additional entrance on the town renewal plan and queried if using this would be feasible.
- Clarification on where the former entrance was.
- This would be a safe route for students.
- Would like to see this being investigated further and planned for the future.

Mr S Wallace informed the members that there were no plans at the moment to create an entrance but did not mean it wouldn't be looked at in the future. The report was given from the existing situation point of view.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor N Connolly that the report be noted.

KN14/0224

Footpath across the old garage

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Duffy

That the council consider the construction of a footpath across the old garage on the Portlaoise Road to link the existing footpaths and provide safe pedestrian access for the residents in this area into Monasterevin.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that a footpath at this location had previously been subject of a proposed private development, this application was withdrawn in 2020. The Municipal District Office have no



Kildare County Council

plans/budget to install a footpath here however Kildare County Council hope to address this as part of a future planning application.

Councillor Duffy informed the members that the road in question was on the Dublin Road and there was no safe access route for the community to access the town. He believed something could be done on the verge and attention was needed. He said that the road was in need of repairs, and it needed to be safe and accessible to use. The District Engineer informed the members that they would investigate this area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer that the report be noted.

KN15/0224 Kildare Town AFC

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor N Connolly
Go gcuirfidh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara bearta maolaithe tráchtá i bhfeidhm feadh Bhóthar Ráth Bhríde ón droichead iarnróid go dtí AFC Bhaile Chill Dara.

That Kildare County Council implement traffic calming measures along Rathbride Road from the railway bridge to Kildare Town AFC.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Curran

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District office agree to undertake a technical assessment at this location, any proposed works are subject to budget availability.

Councillor N Connolly informed the members that he had seen footage of a recent accident in this area. There was a petition from locals in the area. He said that CCTV should be used to observe vehicles that were breaking the lights. This area was getting built up and there was a need to start managing our towns and villages with road safety. He informed the members that this issue was raised at JPC. Councillor Doyle informed the members there had been a patchwork quilt of developments and there should be accountability for the developers, planning conditions have to



Kildare County Council

mean something. The District Engineer informed the members that that she had met with the residents last week and they would assess the area. She said that a significant design would be required but there were budget constraints.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Curran that the report be noted.

KN16/0224

Lidl Distribution Centre

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey

That the council confirm if it plans to take in charge the new road behind Lidl Distribution Centre, Newbridge and outline its plan to protect it from unauthorised temporary settlements.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor Curran

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council, Roads Section is proposing to take this road in charge this year subject to landscaping and tidying up works being completed by the Developers Lidl and Murphy International on the Newbridge South Orbital Relief Road (NSORR). Kildare County Council, Roads Section is also examining measures to protect the NSORR from illegal parking and unauthorised temporary settlements which will be challenging.

Councillor Heavey informed the members that this road would become part of the South Orbital Relief Road and asked what was delaying this process. Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members that she had been very involved in this plan for a number of years but there were issues with land registry, involving live transactions, right of way and agricultural use. She said that there had been huge challenges with illegal encampments and the tidy up afterwards and trying to maintain this area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor Curran that the report be noted.



KN17/0224

Curragh View Estate, Brownstown

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Curran

That the council install road name signs in Curragh View Estate, Brownstown, Newbridge.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Curran and seconded by Councillor N Connolly

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council do not install road name signs in estates. The most appropriate means to address is by means of a residents association grant or similar funding source.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Curran and seconded by Councillor N Connolly that the report be noted.

KN18/0224

Athgarvan Road, Newbridge

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer

Can the council confirm what is the expected time frame for the completion of the realignment works, including toucan crossings, at Athgarvan Road, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the realignment works completed on the Athgarvan Road Newbridge to date include the following:

1. Realignment of the public road to allow for the installation of the 2m wide forest walkway.
2. Upgraded entrance plus raised pedestrian/ cycle crossing to the Kilbelin Estate where the radius of the kerb lines is designed to encourage low traffic speeds and the raised ramp at the entrance to the Kilbelin Estate is to give priority to both cyclists and pedestrians.
3. Ground works for the two toucan crossings.
4. Additional yellow edge markings on the main road to further help delineate the new revised road alignment edge.
5. Road markings and signage.



The following works and actions still have to be completed.

1. Activation and operation of the two toucan crossings which is subject to the power supply from the ESB which may take time to sort out.
2. Snags to be completed.
3. Re-examination of some road design issues by the consulting engineers for the Developer which include the alignment at the Kilbelin junction.
4. A Road Safety Audit Stage 3 to be carried out on the completed works and any additional measures raised in the Road Safety Authority (RSA) to improve safety for all road users will be implemented.

The report was noted.

KN19/0224

Moorefield Cross and Langton Cross

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor P O'Dwyer

Can the council provide an update on the possibility of filter lights/lanes being introduced at Moorefield Cross and Langton Cross, Newbridge?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that there are no plans to increase the vehicular capacity at the signalised junction at this location.

The report was noted.

KN20/0224

Gritting public areas

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly

An féidir leis an gComhairle a plean granála d'áiteanna poiblí seachas bóithre (m.sh. Carrchlóis, páirceanna, cosáin) a leagan amach agus a chur in iúl an féidir le baill den phobal atá ag grannadh limistéir phoiblí i gcóngarachtaí a dtithe nó a ngnó a bheith faoi dhliteanas i leith aon ghorthuithe a eascraíonn as seo, nó an teip orthu é a dhéanamh ar bhonn leanúnach?

Can the council outline its gritting plan for public places other than roads (eg Car Parks, parks, footpaths) and indicate if members of the public gritting public areas in the vicinity of their home or



Kildare County Council

business can be held liable for any injuries arising from this, or their failure to do it on an ongoing basis?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council currently operate 10 salting routes covering 705km of national, regional and local roads and do not have the capacity to extend this to other locations. The salting routes are available to view on the Council website at: Winter Maintenance Plan - Kildare County Council (kildarecoco.ie)

The Council has public liability insurance however this does not extend to third parties. However, at times of severe weather conditions Kildare County Council, Municipal District staff during the working day may, allowing for resources at their disposal, give priority to other roads, junctions etc outside of our standard routes that are in need of treatment.

Councillor N Connolly asked for clarification for local businesses who had questioned if they had a duty of care to grit outside their premises when the paths were icy and now were afraid not to grit the path as they had previously done. He asked if Kildare County Council grit Top Nolans car park in Kildare Town and did the council ever grit footpaths. Councillor N Connolly also asked what the process was for getting a school area on the gritting route. The District Engineer informed the members that the council did not grit Top Nolans car park nor footpaths and this was not only due to a cost issue but an operational issue aswell. The logistics of adding to a route could be due to capacity of salt on the lorries but also the availability of staff to do the runs.

The report was noted.

KN21/0224 Feighcullen Church

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wyse

Can the council provide an update on the plans to improve the line of sight for drivers that are joining the L7004 from the local road north of it, at the entrance to Feighcullen Church?



Kildare County Council

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the issue at this location was private trees impeding visibility. If Councillor Wyse wishes to organise a meeting with the landowner, the Municipal District Office will attend.

The report was noted.

KN22/0224

Active Travel Investment Grants

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Pender

Can the council provide a list of all projects that were applied for under the recent Active Travel Investment Grants in this municipal district including how much was applied for each and any match funding identified or sought?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the portfolio of projects approved by the National Transport Authority for Active Travel Investment Grants was streamlined from 37 in 2023 to 21 in 2024. There was no application procedure, rather an iterative process whereby the total available funding nationally was divided between the different local authorities and other stakeholders. The summary of projects approved in this Municipal District was as follows:

- Monasterevin Town Active Travel Scheme (€75,000)
- R445/R416 Newbridge Active Travel Scheme (€150,000)
- SRTS Round 1 – St Brigid’s Primary School, Kildare Town (€200,000)
- R445 Curragh Road, Newbridge Active Travel Scheme (€75,000)
- Morristown Biller Road Active Travel Scheme (€100,000)
- SRTS Round 2 – Patrician Primary/St. Conleth’s, Newbridge (€20,000)

Match funding was not sought for schemes belonging to the NTA Programme, however, there was an allocation in the Capital Budget for non-NTA funded Active Travel Schemes.

Councillor Pender asked for clarification on the process of the grant scheme, how projects were put forward and identified. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that a briefing would be given in March that would take the members through the projects.

The report was noted.



KN23/0224
Cluain Aileann Estate

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor A Connolly
Can the council confirm if it has any plans to put in place a footpath from Cluain Aileann Estate, Newtown, Kildare to Newtown Cross, Kildare?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office agree to include this location for consideration as part of the 2024 programme subject to budget availability.

The report was noted.

KN24/0224
Church View and Ard Bhríde, Suncroft

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor A Connolly
Can the council give a timeline as to when the footpaths in Church View, Suncroft and Ard Bhríde, Suncroft will be upgraded?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office cannot provide a timeline, the footpaths at these locations are on a list to be considered for upgrading however, it should be noted that this was an extensive list with limited funding.

Councillor A Connolly informed the members that she had hoped that she would have been provided with a timeline. The District Engineer informed the members that the LPT budgets were the next phase and asked the members to give serious consideration to their priority list as over the last few months there had been a number of requests for works to be done but it would not be possible to do them all.

The report was noted.



KN25/0224
Cycle Right programme.

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Heavey

Can the council outline the cycling training that has been delivered in 2023 under the Cycle Right programme and the plan going forward?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that The Cycle Right Programme was funded by the Department of Transport and the Road Safety Authority and supported by Cycling Ireland. For the academic year of 2023/4, Kildare County Council was supporting the training programme but has not financially contributed to the initiative.

Councillor Heavey asked for clarification on whether there was a change to funding arrangements from Kildare County Council. Mr D Hodgins informed the members that the Cycle Right Programme was funded by the Department of Transport and the Road Safety Authority and supported by Cycling Ireland and Kildare County Council. The procurement process was being reviewed at present.

The report was noted.

KN26/0224
Street light repairs

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Curran

Can the council confirm the process for prioritising street light repairs in this municipal district?

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the lights are repaired on a First in First Out (FIFO) basis under normal circumstances. Exceptional circumstances when the FIFO is not strictly adhered are as follows:

- A larger cluster of lights all out leaving the whole street or estate in darkness.
- An emergency where live cables are exposed as when a lighting column is knocked down by traffic.
- Attendance by ESB required for direct fed estates.

The report was noted.



KN27/0224
Delivery of social housing units

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor N Connolly
An féidir leis an gComhairle uasdátú a thabhairt ar an soláthar a bhfuiltear ag súil leis maidir le haonaid tithíochta sóisialta (líon agus suíomh san áireamh) sa Cheantar Bardasach seo in 2024?
Can the council provide an update on its expected delivery of social housing units (including number and location) in this Municipal District in 2024?

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the council's social housing programme was outlined in the monthly Chief Executive Report and includes delivery in the Municipal District area.

Address	Type	No of Units	Expected Delivery
Mountain View, Athgarvan, Newbridge	Social	18	Q3 2024
Pairc na Manach, Ballymany, Newbridge	CALF	20	30/04/2024
Pairc na Manach, Ballymany, Newbridge	CALF	27	27/11/2024

The following schemes are proposed for delivery from 2025 onwards.

Address	Type	No of Units	
Station road, Kildare Town	Social	30	
Maddenstown Terrace, The Curragh	Social	1	
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare Town	Social and Affordable	99 social	32 affordable
Rickardstown, Newbridge	Social and Affordable	80 social	40 affordable
St John's convent, Sofia Housing, Rathangan	CAS	24	
Kare, El Kantara, Newbridge	CAS	2	

The report was noted.



KN28/0224
Capital Programme 2025 -2027

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors P O'Dwyer and T O'Dwyer

That the council list the Kildare-Newbridge Capital Programme 2025 -2027 for discussion at our May meeting so that present County Council members can contribute to the Programme.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer

A report was received from the Finance Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor T O Dwyer informed the members that the reason for this motion on the agenda was for good housekeeping and this was a key programme. She said with the local elections in June it would be nice to leave it in good order for new and returning members starting. It was a key role to have a timely manner for projects. Councillor P O'Dwyer informed the members it also gave the existing members a review of the programme.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members that the Kildare-Newbridge Capital Programme 2025 -2027 be discussed at the May Municipal District meeting and that the report be noted.

KN29/0224
Taking in Charge of DC6104 The Plains, Kildare Town

The mayor advised the members that a report had been circulated to members prior to meeting and that it was the recommendation of the Building and Development Control Department that DC6104 The Plains, Kildare Town be taken in charge.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by all members present that the taking in charge of DC6104 The Plains, Kildare Town proceed.



KN30/0224

Taking in Charge of DC5120 College Orchard, Newbridge

The mayor advised the members that a report had been circulated to members prior to meeting and that it was the recommendation of the Building and Development Control Department that DC5120 College Orchard, Newbridge be taken in charge.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the taking in charge of DC5120 College Orchard, Newbridge proceed.

KN31/0224

Kilcullen Industrial Park

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor T O'Dwyer

Can the council detail the works and a start date for the commencement of the works to be carried out in the council owned Kilcullen Industrial Park?

A report was received from the Local Enterprise Office informing the members that Kildare County Council has procured a contractor to undertake minor works to the frontage of the Kildare County Council owned Kilcullen Business Campus.

The works commenced in November 2023 and comprise:

- Removal of existing signage from boundary fencing at main entrance
- Removal of high level signage at main entrance to include pole structure
- Painting of existing timber boundary fence at main entrance
- Removal of 2nr field gates on concrete plinths with associated concrete blocks at main entrance and repositioned in new position at existing concrete barriers within campus.
- Removal of keypad control for pedestrian gate
- Removal of 2nr grass margin at main entrance and installation of 2nr areas of low-level seasonal planting with weed protection barrier and decorative stone.
- Installation of new signage structure with concrete base foundation
- Power washing of existing green gates and associated railings at main entrance
- Road sweeper for main access road from entrance
- Mini sweeper for pedestrian pathways from main entrance into campus



Kildare County Council

Kildare County Council branded signage was being manufactured at present; delivery and installation are expected to be end-Q1/ start-Q2 2024 to bring works to completion.

The report was noted.

KN32/0224

Reverse vending machine

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Pender

That the council conduct a feasibility study on costs, logistics, and site selection around the installation of a reverse vending machine in this municipal district to support local businesses to engage with the new Government recycling scheme as many are unable to afford such technology.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that this is not a matter within the remit of Kildare County Council (nor does the council have the means to carry out the feasibility study outlined in the notice of motion).

The Deposit Return Scheme is a nationwide money-back scheme for plastic drinks bottles and aluminium cans and is being rolled out from 1st February last.

The Deposit Return Scheme is a key commitment of the Programme for Government 2020 and is a fundamental building block of a circular economy. The scheme is operated by Deposit Return Scheme Ireland (DRSI) CLG, trading as Re-turn.

When registering with Re-turn, all retail outlets offering a takeback service are asked to choose between operating an automatic service, via Reverse Vending Machine (RVM), or a manual service via plastic bags. Many small retail outlets providing a take back service for DRS materials may not have the space or quantity of returns required to justify investment in a Reverse Vending Machine. Therefore, they may operate a manual takeback service. Re-turn will supply plastic bags and tags to retailers operating a manual takeback service. Re-turn also provide a collection service for DRS materials including those from both automatic and manual collections.



Kildare County Council

Retail outlets measuring <250 square metres of customer facing space may apply to Re-turn for an exemption from operating a take-back service. Businesses, such as those referred to in the councillors notice of motion, need to engage directly with Re-turn.

The members raised the following points:

- Understood that this scheme does not come under Kildare County Council, but waste did.
- Queried why the feasibility study for reverse vending machines had not been done.
- Appreciated the sentiment of this scheme.
- The cost could be significant on small businesses.
- Could be a good incentive for schools and sports clubs.
- Recycling facilities do work, could they be allocated where there are recycling centres but would be aware of a cost involved.
- Could Re-turn speak to the members to provide more information on the scheme?

Mr K Kavanagh informed the members that it was not within the council's remit to carry out a feasibility study as outlined in the notice of motion. He stated that the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) was a nationwide money-back scheme for plastic drinks bottles and aluminium cans and was being rolled out from 1 February last. Mr K Kavanagh suggested that businesses, such as those referred to in the councillors notice of motion, need to engage directly with Re-turn. Mr K Kavanagh also advised the members that Re-turn had recently attended an Environmental SPC meeting where they outlined details of the scheme. A copy of their presentation was subsequently circulated to all elected members for information purposes.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer that the report be noted.

KN33/0224

Illegal dump Piercetown, Newbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Heavey

That the council take immediate action to remove the illegal dump which has evolved at (details provided) Piercetown, Newbridge and is a public health hazard.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer



A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the property in question was in private ownership. The Environment Department was happy to discuss options to address the issue, directly with the member.

Councillor Heavey informed the members he would be happy to discuss this offline.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer that the report be noted.

KN34/0224

Rathangan Twinning with Freehold New Jersey

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor A Connolly
That the council recognise the new official twinning committee - Rathangan Twinning with Freehold New Jersey, as a properly constituted twinning committee.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor N Connolly

A report was received from the Community Department informing the members that the establishment of the Rathangan Twinning Committee is noted. If the committee wish to explore a twinning partnership with Freehold, New Jersey, a submission in writing or a presentation should be made to the Twinning Liaison Committee requesting their consideration of the twinning arrangement. The Twinning Liaison Committee may consider several common interests like geographical locations, population size, economic and tourism activities including exploratory visits to confirm if the twinning arrangement is compatible. If approved, the proposal is presented to the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District for final approval.

Councillor A Connolly informed the members she would take this information back to the committee.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor N Connolly that the report be noted.



KN35/0224

Reservoir on the Hill of Allen

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wyse

Can the council confirm whether or not Uisce Éireann have commenced consultation with them regarding the replacement of the water main from the reservoir on the Hill of Allen, to Kilmeague and Allenwood?

A report was received from the Water Department informing the members that the member is advised to contact Uisce Eireann directly via their dedicated email support address at localrepsupport@water.ie or by phoning 0818178178, or raise it at their next dedicated Councillors Clinic which takes place online on Monday 27 February at 11a.m.

The report was noted.

KN36/0224

Water refilling station

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Duffy

Can the council outline how the local community could convert and connect an existing water pump located adjacent to the canal into a water refilling station?

A report was received from the Water Department informing the members that the member is advised to contact Uisce Eireann directly via their dedicated email support address at localrepsupport@water.ie or by phoning 0818178178, or raise it at their next dedicated Councillors Clinic which takes place online on Monday 27 February at 11a.m.

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded.